



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

9/29
WIR

Applicant : Koki Tanaka et al.
Title : MAINTENANCE SYSTEM FOR ANALYZING INSTRUMENT
Serial No. : 10/029,796
Filed : December 31, 2001
Group Art Unit : 2857
Examiner : Carol S. Tsai

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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-B-1221
S. R. R. R.
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2806

September 11, 2003

RESPONSE

Sir:

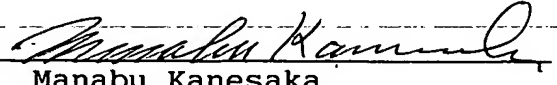
In paragraph 2 of the Office Action of June 12, 2003, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication 2002/0059030 filed on July 17, 2001.

The present application was filed on December 31, 2001 claiming a convention priority of Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-029927 filed on February 6, 2001, which is earlier than the filing date of the above U.S. publication. The priority document was filed at the same time of filing the application. If required, a verified translation of the priority document will be filed.

Since the priority date of the application is earlier than the filing date of the cited reference, please withdraw the above rejection.

Respectfully submitted,
KANESAKA AND TAKEUCHI

by


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